

CITY-WIDE CONGRESS

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

ON

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

BALTIMORE, MAY 16th, 1914.

COMMITTEE:

REV. D. H. STEFFENS, *Chairman.*

MR. WM. M. ELLICOTT.

DR. A. R. L. DOHME.

MR. ASA B. GARDINER, JR.

MR. C. BOSLEY LITTIG.

MR. J. COLIN VINCENT.

MR. CHAS. S. YORK.

DR. LILIAN WELSH.

MR. RICHARD H. PLEASANTS.

MR. LEONARD WILSON, *Secretary*

CITY-WIDE CONGRESS

REPORT ON CONSTITUTION

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

REPORT ON THE CONSTITUTION

*Compliments
C. Bosley Lattig*

To the President and Members of the City-Wide Congress:—

Your Committee on the Maryland Agricultural College begs leave to submit the following report on its recent activities and on the present status of the institution:

Finding that the Maryland Country Life Commission had secured the services of Mr. Edwin Lee Holton, Professor of Rural Sociology and Economics of the Kansas State Agricultural College to make an investigation of agricultural conditions in Maryland, and that the report of this Commission, as presented to His Excellency, the Governor of Maryland, and printed for distribution, in its statements and recommendations with respect to the Maryland Agricultural College, substantially agreed with the reports and recommendations made by your Committee to the City-Wide Congress, your Committee immediately arranged for a conference with representatives of the Maryland Country Life Commission. The Chamber of Commerce Crop Improvement Committee, the State Dairymen's Association, the Maryland Conservation Association, the State Federation of Women's Clubs, the Baltimore Canners' Exchange and the Southern Settlement and Development Organization upon invitation participated in these conferences, "with the view of ascertaining how far the various bills on the subject of the Maryland Agricultural College, prepared or now being prepared, coincide with the views of these associations and of this committee; and to determine as to the advisability of preparing a bill for introduction to the Legislature, which shall carry out the views of these associations."

The Junior Gunpowder Farmers' Club of Baltimore County attended one of these conference meetings and Mr. J. Marsh Matthews, representing the Alumni of the College, also took part in the same.

Since the General Assembly of 1912 had appointed a Commission to examine into the relation of the State of Maryland to the Maryland Agricultural College, your Committee prepared no bills for presentation to the Legislature, but awaited the report and bills of this State Commission, assuming that it, after having made a two years' study of the subject, would present an exhaustive and final report with carefully drawn bills for necessary legislation.

This Committee unfortunately took a somewhat narrow view of its duties and confined its investigations very largely to the legal phases of the joint ownership of the College by the State and private interests. It failed to report on the past relations of the College to the agricultural and educational interests of the State; and proposed no way to increase either the efficiency of the College, or the efficiency of the State Board of Agriculture, which is now composed of the College Trustees, without specified duties of any kind whatsoever. It merely prepared an act, "providing for the foreclosure of the mortgage now held by the State of Maryland against the undivided half-interest of the original stockholder corporation," limiting the purchase price, however, to \$20,000, which was presented by the Speaker of the House and later known as House Bill No. 268. This bill was passed and signed by the Governor.

The bill, granting the College a new charter, was also introduced by the Speaker of the House, and known as House Bill No. 267. It was fortunately defeated in the closing hours of the session.

Instead of a report by the Board of Trustees, either in its capacity as a Board of Trustees or a State Board of Agriculture, the Commission of 1912 attached the report of Doctor H. J. Patterson, the President of the Maryland Agricultural College, on the affairs of the College, with a bill providing for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for buildings and

development. The Trustees were thus free to take any position they chose, for they had by public statement in no way committed themselves to any definite policy whatsoever.

This Bill, No. 266, was also presented by the Speaker and, together with Bill No. 267, failed of passage.

Your Committee carefully examined these bills as soon as it was able to procure copies of the same, which was attended with some difficulty. On February 10th, Mr. Ogle Marbury very kindly attended a conference to explain and discuss the report of the Legislative Committee, appointed by Act of 1912, of which Committee he was a member. Exceedingly valuable assistance was rendered to your Committee by Mr. Richard H. Pleasants, who carefully examined the legal aspects of this much involved problem and wrote several opinions, which were promptly transmitted to the Governor and to the representatives, who had these bills in charge. Mr. Pleasants is of the opinion that the mortgage foreclosure procedure, recommended by the Legislative Committee in 1912, will hardly succeed in eliminating all stockholder interests and vesting clear and undisputable title to the College property in the State.

Your Committee also entered into correspondence with Doctor A. C. Monohan, of the United States Bureau of Education, and the Agricultural Colleges of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, etc., thereby securing much valuable information.

After carefully examining and analyzing the several bills presented to the General Assembly, together with the University Bill, presented by Senator Maloy, the Smith-Lever Bill, recently enacted by the United States Congress, etc., etc., your Committee, in conference with the above-named organizations, decided not to frame and present separate bills, but to urge the adoption of such amendments by the Legislature to the bills before it as would carry out the recommendations of the City-Wide Congress for a complete reorganization and

redirection of the Agricultural College on modern lines. While fully sharing the views of Mr. Pleasants as to the inadequacy and dangers of the mortgage foreclosure procedure, your Committee took this position because of the urgent necessity of the prompt development of the State's agricultural resources, under the leadership of a strong agricultural College.

Amendments were prepared providing that no part of the appropriation asked for be available or paid out to the College authorities until clear and unencumbered title to all College property, both real and personal, be vested in the State and until the Trustees should have submitted definite plans, for the rebuilding and reorganization of the College, to the United States Department of Agriculture in consultation with the United States Bureau of Education. To our great surprise, the President of the College and members of the faculty publicly made objection to this second provision.

Your Committee also urged the earliest possible removal, from any position of control in the College affairs, of the representatives of any and all private interests, preparing an amendment to House Bill No. 267, which, as originally drawn, made the present stockholder Trustees members of the Board for life. While we perfectly agreed with the Country Life Commission that a small Board, selected without partisan bias or because of local considerations, should be named by the Legislature to reorganize and rebuild the Maryland Agricultural College, we nevertheless, although with considerable reluctance, agreed that the present members of the Board, with the exception of the so-called stockholder Trustees, should compose the new Board during the first two years, or until the year 1916, when a complete new Board would be appointed by the Governor.

These amendments represent the utmost minimum of what your Committee might ask, if the views of this Congress as reflected by the adoption of previous reports were to be carried

out. They were presented to the Speaker of the House, who most willingly accepted and incorporated them in his Bills. They were also placed in the hands of the Finance and Ways and Means Committee. The intelligent and public-spirited interest of His Excellency, Governor Goldsborough, of Speaker James McC. Trippe, of Senators Peter J. Campbell, Wm. J. Ogden, of Baltimore City, and Frank E. Williams, of Cecil County, and of Representatives Lloyd Wilkinson, of Baltimore City, Noble L. Mitchell and Charles H. McNabb, of Harford Couty, and others, in this important matter, and the cordial reception accorded by them to our efforts for the upbuilding of the College deserves the sincere gratitude of this Congress.

Despite all our efforts, including a voluminous correspondence, countless personal interviews, and numerous visits to Annapolis to attend hearings and wait on Committees, these Bills 266 and 267 failed of passage, not because of any unwillingness on the part of the Legislature to make full and adequate provisions for the needs of the institution, but rather because of the unfortunate insistence of the stockholder Trustees upon retaining their places as members of the Board of the College.

This was so apparent that the Baltimore News in its issue of April 7th did not hesitate to say: "The scheme of the College fell through the stubbornness of some of the directors, who preferred that the College should go without money than to see themselves eliminated as life directors representing an interest that they had agreed to surrender." These men and the interest they represent are now in actual control of this institution—a fact stated by the Legislative Commission in its report. This report not only says: "The private stockholders are in practical charge of the institution, and conduct its affairs including the spending of the money received from the State and from the National Government," but also states that, "it is impossible to ascertain just who

are the stockholders of the College corporation." In other words, the Maryland Agricultural College is being managed by the representatives of an indefinable and in that sense irresponsible interest, which not only spends the large sums appropriated by the State but also the much larger sums received from the Federal Government.

We, therefore, recommend that the status of the stockholder Trustees be examined by the Attorney-General so as to see whether their legal right to act can be maintained. This interest submits no reports to the State, and it is therefore impossible to determine what claims it may present with respect to a property estimated to be worth \$500,000, a value very largely, if not entirely, created by State appropriations.

Your Committee therefore felt itself in duty bound to send to the Press of the State copies of the "News" article, which ascribed to "stubborn private interests" the failure of the legislation, urged at so great a sacrifice of time and money by your Committee, with the request that the same be published, "to give the Agricultural interests of the State a true statement of the recent action of the General Assembly upon the Maryland Agricultural College Bill."

In its first report (submitted January 24th, 1913), your Committee spoke with regret of "the faculty of this institution at every session of the Legislature neglecting its proper duties and spending weeks and months at Annapolis imploring and supplicating appropriations for the College."

Our recent experience at Annapolis leaves no room for doubt that a lobby, composed of members of the faculty, was present during much of the entire session, unquestionably with permission of the Board of Trustees. That the professors of what is potentially a National and State institution should be compelled to neglect their class work for weeks during legislative sessions and engage in activities which suggest the questions, "Who pays the expenses of this lobby?" "In whose interest are they here?" is a most

reprehensible custom, calculated to work harm to an institution which has in no small measure already forfeited the confidence of a large number of the people of this State. Your Committee therefore repeats that whatever legislation is needed by the College should be initiated and presented by the Trustees and that these Trustees, who should be the most progressive and enlightened agricultural leaders of the State, should make their appeal to the general citizen body, without whose hearty support no amount of legislation will ever insure any real agricultural progress or development in Maryland. A lobby such as the one described is a discredit both to the institution and to the State. If the responsibility for its maintenance rests with the private stockholder interests who "are in actual control of the College," this of itself would be a sufficient reason for their removal from any position of influence or control of its affairs.

Of the present situation of the College, your Committee would say that the new dormitory building has now been completed. The usual appropriations for maintenance were made by the Legislature. The college will therefore be able to continue its work.

Not having recently visited the College, your Committee is unable to report on the efforts and progress made toward carrying out other important recommendations of this Congress, namely those looking toward the adoption of a comprehensive scheme for the physical development of the property, with the acquisition of additional land, the layout of a general building scheme, the provision of an adequate water supply, a spur track into the grounds, arrangements for sewerage disposal, etc., etc.

In its first report your Committee emphasized the need of increased publicity as a means for securing proper benefits for the College. Although the Baltimore "Sun," with commendable public spirit, regularly gives an entire page to agricultural matter prepared by the College, the people of this

State have never yet been told through its columns of any plan the Trustees or faculty may have formed for its reorganization and development. This, if not the studied policy of the institution as determined by the interests in control, to say the least, is a deplorable oversight on the part of the Trustees and Faculty.

Under these circumstances it is not surprising that there should be more and more evident a strong and growing feeling, that the best interests of the State might even now make advisable the removal of this institution to some other part of the State as the first step toward its complete and effective reorganization—a feeling which your Committee has hitherto endeavored to restrain and counteract, but which, if the present policy of the interest in actual control of the College continues, may readily increase to such an extent as to be able to peremptorily demand drastic action. Seeing the fatuity of maintaining a College under the guise of an agricultural institution which takes ten men away from the farm for every one which it sends back, your Committee felt in duty bound to urge that the old order of things should cease and that the State at once proceed to secure complete ownership and unfettered control of this institution, creating and endowing a strictly modern school, devoted entirely to rural interests and problems as perfectly as possible adapted to the conditions and needs of Maryland. It has been found wherever such reorganization and redirection has been effected, and a real guarantee of value for value in time and money spent has been given, that large numbers of young men and young women from the cities and rural neighborhoods eagerly come to prepare themselves for the thrifty and useful citizenship of the country districts. Wherever there is a really good agricultural College, the difficulty is to find accommodations for the applicants, and every dollar spent comes back to the State tenfold in the value to the community of educated men and women.

Fortunately, the recommendations of the City-Wide Congress, submitted in the first and second reports of this Committee, urging the necessity of an educational survey of the State, have been enacted into a law by the Legislature with an appropriation of \$5,000 for this important and difficult work. It will, however, be necessary for the City-Wide Congress to continue its interest in this matter, at least, so far as the Maryland Agricultural College is concerned, for an imperfect survey is bound to do both this institution and the general educational system of the State more harm than good.

The City-Wide Congress should also direct its attention to another matter intimately related to the College and Experiment Station, namely, the organization of a State Board of Agriculture. The Board of Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural College was created a Maryland State Board of Agriculture in 1908, without the assignment or definition of any duties whatsoever. The necessity of a co-ordination and correlation, under a State Board of Agriculture, of all the State agencies, which should make for the promotion of agriculture, is so apparent that it needs no proof. The Bill enacted by the last Legislature of the State of Ohio creating an agricultural commission is an example of what should be done in this direction by Maryland. A State Board of Agriculture, with no duties set forth, which makes no effort to direct and co-ordinate the various State agencies having to do with agriculture, such as Live Stock Inspection, the Inspection of Fertilizers, the Analysis of Soils, the Encouragement of Immigration, the Protection of Orchards Against Disease—in a word every State agency designed to promote or protect the utilization of our natural resources—is an institution peculiar to, but not particularly creditable to Maryland.

In the opinion of your Committee, it is also necessary to further urge prompt provision of equal educational opportunities for women at the Maryland Agricultural College. If for no other reason, the pressing need of agricultural training for the teachers of our high schools and district schools should make this imperative. At present the College does nothing whatsoever in this direction unless we are willing to consider its short courses, hitherto held at a season of the year when no teachers can attend, as a provision for such teachers' training, and as adequate provision for the training of farmers' wives and daughters in home economics. Provision for the training of women who desire to elect agricultural pursuits, on exactly the same basis as men are trained, seems to be as far removed from the vision of the Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural College as it was from that of the Trustees of similar institutions in other States forty years ago.

Your Committee is also of the opinion that legislation should be enacted by the Federal Government, to apply alike to all land-grant Colleges which annually receive large appropriations from the National Treasury, more specifically defining the powers to be exercised by the Federal Government through its Department of Agriculture in determining the curriculum and mode of management of these institutions. Since the increasing appropriations provided by the Smith-Lever Bill are to be expended in co-operation with these land-grant Colleges, such a definition of power cannot with safety be much longer postponed. At this moment the payment of the Federal appropriation to one such College is actually being withheld, whether by warrant of law or not your Committee is unable to say. If these appropriations were withheld from the Maryland Agricultural College for one year, it would be compelled to close its doors.

Any plan for the reorganization of Maryland Agricultural College should also provide for the removal of the ex-officio members from the Board of Trustees. The Board has hereto-

fore had seven ex-officio members. The report of the legislative commission of 1912 very frankly says: "As a matter of fact, the ex-officio members seldom attend." The report of the Country Life Commission therefore urges: "The statute which provides for ex-officio members of the Board should be repealed. It is a well-established fact that men elected to important offices in the State Government make inefficient ex-officio members of important boards of administration. The more efficient the service they render to the State in the positions to which they were elected, the less efficient will be their service on so important a board as the Board of Administration of the State Agricultural College." Your Committee is persuaded that a board composed of not more than seven persons should be provided for whenever the College is granted a new charter. At least one of these members should be a woman, not only because of the contemplated co-educational features, but because of the exceedingly valuable services women have rendered, and are more and more rendering, to the great cause of education and the improvement of conditions surrounding life in the open country.

In conclusion, your Committee would say that it is more than ever convinced that the City-Wide Congress should continue to take the initiative in this matter of agricultural education. The farmers, as a rule, lack organization and leadership. They are by no means enthusiastic over larger crop production under governmental direction. They want higher prices for their present production and cheaper labor to produce.

The city-dweller, smarting under the ever-increasing expense of the high cost of living, is more and more keenly realizing his utter dependence upon the man who is at one and the same time the ultimate producer and the ultimate consumer. Baltimore City will more and more realize that its continued growth and industrial development depend upon the continued provision of a reliable and reasonably cheap

food supply for its workers—in a word, upon the development of the State's dormant agricultural resources. The reorganization and the rebuilding of the Maryland Agricultural College, together with the organization of a strong State Board of Agriculture, is therefore one of the gravest problems asking solution of the people of this State. In the last analysis its every interest, industrial, commercial, social and educational, depends upon agriculture which is, and ever must remain, the foundation of all national prosperity.

Your Committee therefore respectfully urges that the City-Wide Congress continue its interest in this most important matter, with the assurance that intelligent concerted action on the part of both the City and the Counties cannot fail to redound to the benefit of every citizen of our beloved State.

Respectfully submitted,

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Baltimore, Md.,

May 16th, 1914.



